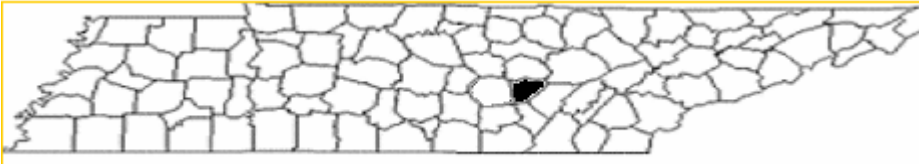


# The Status of Women in Van Buren County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN VAN BUREN COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	44.20	35
Women's Annual Earnings	\$20,911	53
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	80.6%	2
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	46.9%	9
Female Unemployment Rate	6.9%	65
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	20.8%	92
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	58.63	73
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	> 100	95
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	7.8%	79
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	62.5%	85
Female High School Dropout Rate	2.9%	8
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	92.2%	43
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	16.3%	56
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	9.7%	51
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	33.8	52

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Van Buren County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

### VAN BUREN

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

#### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Van Buren ranks among the top ten counties in wage gap and in labor force participation rate but is in the bottom five counties in percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.
- ◇ Women in Van Buren County have median annual earnings of about \$5,000 less than their male counterparts. However, Van Buren County ranks second in the state in wage equity, with women earning 80.6% of male earnings.
- ◇ Women in Van Buren County have a high percent of labor force participation, and the unemployment rates for women and for men are close with an overall county unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- ◇ Among all working individuals in Van Buren County, 15.5% work in managerial or professional occupations, but when only female workers are considered, that number increases significantly to 20.8%.

#### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Van Buren only ranks in the top half of counties in two of the eight economic autonomy indicators for women in the state of Tennessee.
- ◇ Though the female high school dropout rate is one of the lowest in the state, just 62.5% of Van Buren women have a high school diploma. 62.0% of all county residents have a high-school level degree.
- ◇ 7.8% of women have a four-year college degree in Van Buren County, and the same percent of all county residents have such a degree. 19.6% of all Tennesseans have at least a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ 16.3% of women earn income below poverty level in Van Buren County.
- ◇ Though 13.7% of all families in the county are in poverty, the percentage rises to 31.4% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ There are so few women-owned businesses that the number is negligible, ranking the county last among the state.
- ◇ Almost 50 percent of elected county officials are women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## VAN BUREN

		Van Buren County	Rank of Van Bu- ren County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Median Annual Earnings for FT Females</b>	\$20,911	53	Williamson: \$32,243
	<b>Wage Gap</b>	80.6%	2	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>Female Labor Force Partici- pation Rate</b>	46.9%	9	Rutherford: 50.9%
	<b>Female Unemployment Rate</b>	6.9%	65	Pickett: 1.5%
	<b>Percent of Employed Fe- males in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations</b>	20.8%	92	Anderson: 44.6%
	<b>Women Owned Business % of Total</b>	< 100	95	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	<b>% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better</b>	7.8%	79	Williamson: 39.5%
	<b>% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)</b>	62.5%	85	Williamson: 90.6%
	<b>Female Dropout Rate</b>	2.9%	8	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	<b>% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Cover- age</b>	92.2%	43	Williamson: 100%
	<b>% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes</b>	16.3%	56	Williamson: 5.4%
	<b>% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty</b>	9.7%	51	Williamson: 2.5%
	<b>Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000</b>	33.8	52	Williamson: 1.2

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Van Buren County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties